

Attorney Docket No. 13625-002001
Appl. No. 10/035,597
Amdt. dated August 7, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated April 23, 2003

REMARKS

The office action and the prior art cited by the Examiner have been carefully examined.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) based on U.S. Patent No. 6,537,150 to Luciano (referred to below as "Luciano").

Purely in an effort to clarify the invention for the Examiner amendments have been made to claims 1 and 10. It is emphasised that, for the reasons set forth below, the purpose in making the amendment is purely for clarity and has nothing to do with patentability issues. As will be apparent, Luciano does not teach the present invention as claimed in claims 1 and 10, either prior to amendment or after amendment.

The Office Action initially indicates that, in respect of claims 1-4, 7 and 10-12, Luciano discloses the features of those claims and refers to columns 2, lines 50-53, column 8, lines 54-67 and column 9, lines 1-3 of Luciano. The rejection also refers to column 11, line 32-44 and Figure 5.

The rejection has, helpfully, reproduced the quoted passages from Luciano, verbatim, in the office action. It will readily be appreciated that, on a reading of those passages, Luciano does not disclose the features of the present invention

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as claimed. For example, column 2, lines 50-53 of Luciano specifies that it comprises a gaming system and method in which the outcome of a play is determined first and then the outcome is mapped to a symbol suitable for display to the player. Column 8, line 54 to column 9, line 3 goes on to describe that an important variation of Luciano is the possibility of varying the award according to the skill exhibited by the player.

Firstly, nothing in the quoted passages teaches a simulation system for simulating the playing of a game where the simulation system enables predetermined starting parameters to be set. Luciano also does not disclose the use of a comparator for comparing an end condition of a simulation run by the simulation using the starting parameters with a pre-calculated desired outcome of the game. Also importantly, Luciano does not disclose the use of an adjustment means for adjusting the starting parameters such that the end condition of the simulation coincides with the end condition of the desired outcome of the game.

Further, as described at column 8, lines 54-67 and column 9, lines 1-3 of Luciano, the player is given an opportunity of stopping a set of virtual or fixed wheels and the extent to which the player is successful in stopping the wheels depends on the skill of the player and the award is dependent on how

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successful the player is. Nothing in the present application relates to player skill at all, nor has anything to do with player skill claimed in either of the independent claims, claims 1 and 10. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that what is quoted from Luciano by the Official Action does not defeat patentability of the present application and, in particular, not to any of claims 1-4, 7 and 10-12.

In the circumstances, it is respectfully submitted that what is disclosed in the present invention as claimed is patentably distinguishable over the teachings of Luciano.

The abstract of Luciano specifies that an outcome is determined. That outcome is mapped to a symbol displayed to the player. It goes on to specify that, for each outcome, there may be a plurality of symbols one of which is selected by a random technique. What Luciano, therefore, teaches is a technique for selecting a symbol or a set of symbols that matches a determined outcome. Luciano does not teach running an initial simulation to determine the result of the running of the initial simulation, comparing the result with the desired outcome for the game, adjusting starting parameters of the initial simulation and re-running the simulation so that the result of the re-run simulation coincides with the desired outcome of the game to give the effect of the random running of a game outcome.

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In addition, Luciano solves a different problem in attempting to provide more varied games in addition to being more exciting and also to incorporate aspects of skill into the play (see column 2, lines 34 to 47). It is not dealing with the problem of modelling a game outcome using simulation techniques.

Importantly, at column 4, lines 20-22 Luciano specifies that "the invention requires no probabilistic analysis of the display symbols, because these symbols are selected only after the outcome is determined". As indicated above, Luciano does not teach running a simulation, whether an initial or a final simulation, as, in Luciano, the outcome of the game has already been determined and a symbol to match that outcome is selected for display purposes without the need for running a simulation. This teaches directly away from the present invention as claimed because the present invention requires an analysis of the outcome of the running of the initial simulation in order to effect an adjustment of the starting parameters so that the displayed outcome, after a re-running of the simulation after adjusting the starting parameters, incorporates the correct display symbols for the selected outcome.

In fact, as described, for example, at column 3, lines 10-12, the system associates, or reverse-maps, a display symbol to the determined outcome. This also serves to show that Luciano

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does not teach the running of simulations as, in the system of Luciano, there is no need for a simulation to be run because a reverse-mapping technique is employed instead. See also column 5, lines 49-67 of Luciano where it is specified that an important step in Luciano is "the selection of one these symbol combinations which corresponds to the selected outcome", ie. that the symbol combination is reverse-mapped to the selected outcome.

It is well established that, in order to found a novelty rejection, all elements of the claim must be found in the cited art. It is respectfully submitted that Luciano does not disclose all of the elements of claims 1 and 10 of the present invention. As such, it is respectfully submitted that Luciano does not anticipate the invention as claimed in claims 1 and 10.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 10, both prior to amendment and as amended, are both novel and inventive over the teachings of Luciano and that claims 2-17, being dependent from allowable base claims are also in a suitable condition for allowance. Retraction of the 35 USC 102(e) rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

In the circumstances, it is respectfully submitted that all the Examiner's objections have been overcome. Reconsideration of the objections and rejections is respectfully requested.

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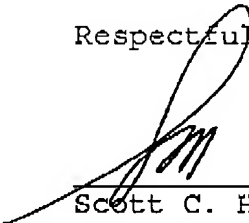
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and allowance thereof is courteously solicited.

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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Scott C. Harris
Reg. No. 32,030

Fish & Richardson P.C.
PTO Customer Number: 20985
4350 La Jolla Village Drive, Suite 500
San Diego, CA 92122
Telephone: (858) 678-5070
Facsimile: (858) 678-5099
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